United Nations E/2019/9/Add.3

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
23 November 2018

Original: English

2019 session
26 July 2018–24 July 2019
Agenda item 4[1]
Elections, nominations, confirmations and appointments

Election of a member of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Note by the Secretary-General

1. At its 16th plenary meeting in 2018, held on 16 April, the Economic and Social Council elected seven members to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 2019 (see Council decision 2018/201 E).

2. At the same meeting, the Council postponed the election of one member each from the Asia-Pacific States and the Latin American and Caribbean States for a term beginning on 1 January 2019 and expiring on 31 December 2022 (see Council decision 2018/201 E).

3. At its 51st plenary meeting, held on 24 July 2018, the Economic and Social Council elected Ms. Karla Vanessa Lemus de Vásquez as member to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights from the Latin American and Caribbean States for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 2019 (see Council decision 2018/201 G).

4. On 9 November 2018, the Secretariat received the nomination from the Asia Pacific States. The term of office would begin on 1 January 2019 and expire on 31 December 2022.

5. Biographical information on the candidate is set out in the annex to the present note.

[1] See E/2019/1.

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Annex

Biographical information on a candidate for election to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*

Preeti Saran (India)

Date and place of birth: **5 September 1958, India**
Working languages: Russian, Bengali, Hindi and English

Education

Bachelor of Arts (Honours) English Lady Shri Ram College, Delhi University.

Masters of Arts English Lady Shri Ram College, Delhi University.

Professional experience

In her distinguished career with the Indian Foreign Service spread over 36 years, Ambassador Preeti Saran served in various capacities in India as well as in Indian Missions in Asia, Africa, Europe and the Americas.

As Secretary to the Government of India with the rank of Vice Foreign Minister, she was responsible for policy formulation of India's relations with countries in East Asia, South East Asia, Canada and Latin America and the Caribbean region.

Ambassador Saran has dealt with the entire range of issues pertaining to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) during her long diplomatic career.

During her assignment at Geneva, Ambassador Saran dealt extensively with United Nations organizations and specialized agencies such as the WIPO, UNCTAD, South Centre and all economic matters on behalf of the Permanent Mission of India. She also represented India at the meetings of the Human Rights Commission.

Ambassador Saran represented India as Sherpa and Leader of the Senior Official Meetings (SOM) at several multilateral events including the BRICS Summit, The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Summit, ASEAN-India Annual Summits, East Asia Summit, ASEAN Regional Forum and the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation mechanism.

She has been a senior member of Indian delegations to several multilateral and other events, including at the Summit Level.

She was India's Ambassador to Viet Nam and Consul General in Toronto, Canada. Her other overseas assignments include at the Indian Missions in the Russian Federation, Bangladesh, Egypt and Geneva.

At the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi, Ambassador Saran held wide ranging responsibilities, including supervision of the work relating to Public Diplomacy, Counter Terrorism, ASEAN, BIMSTEC, The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), Parliament and Coordination. As Director General, she acquired extensive experience of dealing with India's relations with SAARC, Nepal and Bhutan. She also served in the Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR).

Her interests include education, sustainable development, communication strategies and gender issues.

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* Curricula vitae are issued without formal editing.